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Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1964

C.H. IMRIE,
T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Hon. Surgeon to H.M. the Queen.

Eden Lodge,
Woodbridge,
Suffolk.

October, 1965.

The Chairman and Councillors,

Woodbridge Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my Annual Report for the year, 1964, dealing with the general health of the population of Woodbridge and with such matters of hygiene and sanitation as may influence the health of the community.

I would like to thank the Council and Officials for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

C.H. IMRIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health	C.H. Imrie, T.D., Q.H.S., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Public Health Inspector	G. Ogden, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector	D.W. Snowden, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (from November 1964).

A. STATISTICS

1. Summary of General Statistics

Area of District in Acres	...	1112
Number of inhabited houses (approx.)	...	2200
Rateable Value of District	...	£179,976. 0. 0.
Product of Penny Rate	...	£702

In 1964 the population of Woodbridge rose to 6,260, according to the mid-year estimate made by the Registrar General. This represents an increase of 160 over the previous year and is the highest figure yet attained by Woodbridge.

The statistics for births and deaths during the year were very satisfactory. Births at 106 were higher than in any previous year while the deaths were rather fewer than might have been expected on the basis of population. Still Births and infantile deaths were also below the average for England and Wales.

Reference to the table on Page 7 will show that the deaths of males outnumbered the female deaths by a third, thus reversing the position of the previous year when female deaths predominated. With regard to the causes of death the pattern of previous years was maintained, and the main group of causes was that associated with diseases of the heart and circulation, with malignant disease deaths as the second most frequent. Deaths due to accidental causes, however, were more numerous in 1964 than in the previous year. We should remember that accidents involve people of all ages and are in many cases preventable if care and forethought are exercised. Unfortunately many of the victims of accidents suffer for the carelessness or neglect of others. In this modern mechanised age when the chances of injury are so much greater, it appears inevitable that accidents will increase unless there is a much greater general awareness of the need for positive accident prevention. There were no deaths reported as associated with pregnancy or childbirth.

Notifiable disease did not play a conspicuous part in 1964. The total notifications received was 12 and these were mainly due to minor infections. Measles is still the most frequent of the childish ailments and in Woodbridge it appears in definite peaks every 2-3 years. As we had a peak year in 1963 it was to be expected that 1964 would only produce a scanty crop and in the event this was so.

During the year the Local Health Authority as part of the scheme for the prevention of disease carried out the following immunisations:-

Primary Vaccinations	47
Revaccinations	68
Tetanus	1
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough	74
Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough Boosters	25

It is expected that within the fairly near future immunisation against Measles will become available. Work has been going on for many years on the preparation of an immunising agent and it is understood that the results have been promising.

With regard to Tuberculosis it will be seen that there was a small increase in the number on the register. While cases of this disease are still found the amount in the community is very small and even that should disappear gradually.

It might be noted that there were no cases of Puerperal Pyrexia, Poliomyelitis, Food Poisoning or Dysentery in Woodbridge during the year.

There is still a certain amount of substandard housing accommodation in Woodbridge which will require to be dealt with, much, however, has been done in this connection over the past few years, and the town's record for Council House building will bear favourable comparison with that of many a larger and wealthier authority. The Castle Street scheme was still progressing by the end of the year and should provide an attractive feature to an excellent site.

There is no evidence of any considerable overcrowding problem although occasionally isolated cases are found in the town.

It will perhaps be recalled that in my report for 1963 I pointed out that from time to time one hears criticism of the condition of the public conveniences in the town. In some cases criticism is fully justified as their standard varies considerably and in some is very poor. I would recommend, once the new public conveniences in the Market Hill area are opened, that the state of the other installations around the town should be examined.

Fouling of the pavements and footways by dogs has always been a minor nuisance. Recently, however, it seems to me to have become more prevalent. This is a problem mainly confined to towns but one would have thought that there were sufficient open spaces in and around Woodbridge to exercise dogs without involving the already congested pavements.

The refuse disposal arrangements are as described in previous reports. The tip at Haugh Lane has been worked systematically and every care has been taken to prevent it causing offence to the surrounding area.

The sewerage scheme for Woodbridge and district made excellent progress during 1964 and by the end of the year the disposal works were largely complete.

Food hygiene, especially in shops, is an important matter which has been receiving more attention recently. Woodbridge is the shopping centre for an extensive area and it is essential that the highest standards should be aimed at. The work of inspection of food premises was pushed on during the year.

Summary of Vital Statistics

1955 to 1964

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Estimated Population	5540	5590	5620	5680	5950	6190	6020	6070	6100	6260
Birth Rate	15·7 (87)	12·7 (71)	16·19 (91)	17·9 (102)	15·4 (92)	16·18 (100)	12·8 (77)	14·6 (89)	12·95 (79)	16·93 (106)
Still Birth Rate	11·3 (1)	nil	31·8 (3)	9·8 (1)	10·8 (1)	10·0 (1)	nil	21·9 (2)	48·2 (4)	9·43 (1)
Death Rate	12·4 (69)	13·7 (77)	11·2 (66)	10·5 (62)	12·6 (75)	11·9 (74)	12·45 (75)	13·8 (84)	15·57 (95)	12·6 (79)
Infantile Death Rate	11·4 (1)	nil	32·9 (3)	9·8 (1)	10·8 (1)	50·0 (5)	12·9 (1)	11·2 (1)	37·9 (3)	9·34 (1)

Note: Infantile Death Rate is the rate per 1,000 live births - the other rates are per 1,000 population.

The Still Birth Rate is the rate per 1,000 live and still births.

Figures in brackets are the actual numbers.

Analysis of Vital Statistics

	Male	Female	Total	Crude Rate per 1000 Population	Adjusted Rate for Comparison	Rate per 1000 Population England & Wales
Live Births						
Legitimate	46	54	106	16·93	19·63	18·4
Illegitimate	1	5				
Still Births						
Legitimate	1	-	1	* 9·43	-	16·3
Illegitimate	-	-				
Deaths all Ages	46	33	79	12·6	10·6	11·3
Deaths under 1 year of age	1	-	1	* 9·43	-	20·3

* This rate is expressed per 1000 live births.

Causes of Death

Code No.		Male	Female	Total 1964	Total 1963
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-	1	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	1	-	1	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	-	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1	4	7
12.	Malignant, neoplasm, breast	-	1	1	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	5	3	8	11
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	3	10	12
18.	Coronary disease, angina	7	6	13	17
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2	-
20.	Other heart disease	4	5	9	10
21.	Other circulatory disease	1	2	3	7
22.	Influenza	-	-	-	2
23.	Pneumonia	5	4	9	7
24.	Bronchitis	3	-	3	3
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1	1	-
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	1	1	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	1	5	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	3	-	3	1
34.	All other accidents	-	3	3	2
35.	Suicide	-	-	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-
		46	33	79	95

Infectious Disease

Notifications Received

Disease	under 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 & over	age unknown	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
											12

Monthly Notifications

Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	Jne	Jly	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jaundice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
													12

Tuberculosis

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Number on Register 1st January, 1964	13	3	1	1	18
Number of cases notified during the year	1	-	-	1	2
Number restored to Register	-	-	-	-	-
Number added otherwise than by Notification	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from Register	-	-	-	-	-
Number remaining on Register at 31st December, 1964	14	3	1	2	20

Details of Cases added to Register

Age	Sex	Occupation	Location of Disease
92	F	Housewife	Non-Pulmonary
76	M	Retired Shop-keeper	Pulmonary

Details of Cases removed from Register

Nil

HOUSING

Statistics for 1964

Number of inhabited houses in the District at 31.12.64.	2,200
Average number of persons per house	2·85
Number of new houses completed by Local Authority during the year	Nil
Total of post-war Council Houses completed to 31.12.64.	394
Private buildings completed during 1964	24
Number of Improvement Grant applications approved during the year:	
Discretionary -	8
Standard -	18
Number on Waiting List for Council Houses at 10.5.65.	163

General Inspection

(a) Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	90
(b) Total number of houses found to be unsatisfactory	55
(c) Number of houses still occupied for human habitation in respect of which demolition or clearance orders have been made	1

Housing Repairs

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	40
Number of scheduled (1955) unfit houses rendered fit	Nil

Clearance Areas

Number of Clearance Orders made	Nil
Number of properties involved in Clearance Orders	16
Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of Clearance Orders	16
Number of dwellings included in designated Clearance Areas (to be acquired by the Council)	Nil

Individual Houses

Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
Number of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders	Nil
Number of dwellings demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure	Nil
Number of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 12 Housing Act, 1936)	Nil
Number closed under Local Government (Misc. Provisions) Act, 1963	Nil
Number of families rehoused from unfit houses	8

FOOD

The number of premises in Woodbridge in which food of one kind or another is purveyed to the public is 82.

The following gives the type of premises concerned:-

Bakers	- 2	Green Grocers	- 6
Butchers	- 7	General Stores, including Grocers	- 23
Confectioners	- 12	Hotels, Cafes, Restaurants and Public Houses	- 25
Dairies	- 1		
Fish Mongers	- 3		
Fish & Chip Shops	- 3		

Food Inspections

It should be noted that the Food and Drugs Authority for Woodbridge is the East Suffolk County Council but the condemnation of unfit items is done by the Officers of the Local Authority.

The following items were inspected and condemned during the year:-

15 lbs. Corned Beef	2 tins Peas
2 doz. Pork Pies	2 tins Tomatoes
37 lbs. Tinned Ham	1 pkt. Cheese Spread
1 tin Dutch Ham	2 jars Butter
1 6lb. tin Tongue	2 lbs. Marmalade
2 tins Casserole Steak	1 tin Apricot Conserve
1 tin Spam	2 tins Plums
2 tins Pork Luncheon Meat	12 tins Peaches
5 stone Crabs	1 tin Pears
3 stone Herrings	6 tins Apricots
4 stone Cod Fillets	2 tins Pineapple
2 doz. Fish Cakes	2 tins Fruit Salad
1 tin Tuna	1 tin Blackcurrants
3 tins Sardines	1 tin Lemon Drink
2 tins Salmon	1 bottle Orange Juice
1 tin Herring Roes	8 tins Milk
58 Mackerel Fillets in Wine	2 tins Creamed Rice
1 jar Salmon Spread	1 tin Dairy Cream
3 tins Soup	5 tins Pet Food
2 tins Carrots	412 lots tinned food, mainly delicacies, all from one premises.
1 tin Butter Beans	
5 tins Baked Beans	

Action under Various Acts & Regulations

1964

1. Factories Acts, 1937 to 1961

	On Register	Inspections	Defects	Remedied
Factories not employing power	3	2	-	-
Factories employing power	34	15	-	-
	37	17	-	-

Outworkers - Nil on Register

11. National Assistance Act, 1948

Inspections took place but no statutory action under Section 47 of this Act was considered necessary during the year.